

Proposed Amendment to Claims of US 10/657,659

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method for separating a pane of a brittle material from a moving sheet of the material along a separation line, said pane and said sheet having a width, said pane when separated having a length, said movement of the sheet being described by a vector, said method comprising:

- (a) releasably engaging the moving sheet within an area defined by the length and width of the to-be-separated pane, said area becoming the pane when separated from the sheet;
- (b) rotating the to-be-separated pane about an axis which substantially coincides with the separation line, said rotation causing the pane to separate from the sheet; and
- (c) ~~passively~~ moving the separated pane relative to the moving sheet using gravity as the sole motive force so that the pane and the sheet do not contact each other once separation occurs;

wherein the sheet moves continuously during (a), (b), and (c).

Claim 2 (currently amended): The method of Claim 1 where the vector is characterized by a vertical component and a horizontal component and the vertical component is substantially greater than the horizontal component ~~vertical~~.

Claim 3 (original): The method of Claim 1 wherein the releasable engagement is a vacuum engagement.

Claim 4 (original): The method of Claim 1 wherein the brittle material is glass.

Claim 5 (currently amended): A method for separating a pane of a brittle material from a ~~continually~~ moving ribbon of the material along a separation line, said pane and said ribbon having a width, said pane when separated having a length, said ~~continual~~ movement of the ribbon being described by a vector, said method comprising:

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- (a) releasably engaging the ~~e~~continually moving ribbon within an area defined by the length and width of the to-be-separated pane, said area becoming the pane when separated from the ribbon;
- (b) rotating the to-be-separated pane about an axis which substantially coincides with the separation line, said rotation causing the pane to separate from the ribbon; and
- (c) moving the separated pane relative to the ~~e~~continually moving ribbon so that the pane and the ribbon do not contact each other once separation occurs, said movement employing as a motive force at least one of a hydraulic force, a mechanical spring force, a pneumatic force, and a vacuum

wherein the ribbon moves continually before, during, and after (a), (b), and (c).

Claim 6 (original): The method of Claim 5 wherein a part of the motive force is due to the force of gravity.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The method of Claim 6 where the vector is characterized by a vertical component and a horizontal component and the vertical component is substantially greater than the horizontal component ~~vertical~~.

Claim 8 (previously presented): A method for separating a pane of a brittle material from a moving sheet of the material along a separation line, said pane and said sheet having a width, said pane when separated having a length, said movement of the sheet being described by a vector, said method comprising:

- (a) releasably engaging the moving sheet within an area defined by the length and width of the to-be-separated pane, said area becoming the pane when separated from the sheet;
- (b) rotating the to-be-separated pane about an axis which substantially coincides with the separation line, said rotation causing the pane to separate from the sheet; and
- (c) moving the separated pane relative to the moving sheet so that the pane and the sheet do not contact each other once separation occurs, said movement employing as a motive force at least one of a hydraulic force, a mechanical spring force, a pneumatic force, and a vacuum;

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wherein:

- (i) the sheet moves continuously during (a), (b), and (c); and
- (ii) the releasable engagement is a vacuum engagement.

Claim 9 (original): The method of Claim 5 wherein the brittle material is glass.

Claim 10 (previously presented): The method of Claim 8 wherein a part of the motive force is due to the force of gravity.

Claim 11 (currently amended): The method of Claim 10 where the vector is characterized by a vertical component and a horizontal component and the vertical component is substantially greater than the horizontal component ~~vertical~~.

Claim 12 (previously presented): The method of Claim 8 wherein the brittle material is glass.

¹**Claim 13 (new):** A method for separating a pane of a brittle material from a moving sheet of the material along a separation line, said pane and said sheet having a width, said pane when separated having a length, said movement of the sheet being described by a vector, said method comprising:

- (a) releasably engaging the moving sheet within an area defined by the length and width of the to-be-separated pane, said area becoming the pane when separated from the sheet;
- (b) rotating the to-be-separated pane about an axis which substantially coincides with the separation line, said rotation causing the pane to separate from the sheet; and
- (c) passively moving the separated pane relative to the moving sheet using gravity as the motive force so that the pane and the sheet do not contact each other once separation occurs;

wherein:

- (i) the sheet moves continuously during (a), (b), and (c); and
- (ii) the releasable engagement is a vacuum engagement.

¹ Claim 13 is Claim 3 written in independent form; Claim 3 was indicated as being allowable in the 1/30/06 Office Action.

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Claim 14 (new): The method of Claim 13 where the vector is characterized by a vertical component and a horizontal component and the vertical component is substantially greater than the horizontal component.

Claim 15 (new): The method of Claim 13 wherein the brittle material is glass.

Claim 16 (new): The method of Claim 5 wherein the releasable engagement is a vacuum engagement.